

# State Affirmative Action Officers



## Quarterly Review

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## Diversity Events

**September 15–October 15 2002**

*National Hispanic Heritage Month*

**November 2002**

*Native American Heritage Month*

## Patriot Day / World Day on the Mall Celebration

**P**atriot Day/ World Day on the Mall will be held on September 11, 2002, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Centennial Mall outside the State Office Building. This year the event will celebrate the diverse cultures in the State of Nebraska and honors the daily contributions of Nebraska's State employees as well as remembering all those who perished on September 11, and in the continuing war on terrorism.

Corkey Ford of HHSS will MC the event. The Nebraska National Guard will present the colors. Governor Johanns will give the opening remarks.

Entertainment will be provided by Ex Animo (barbershop quartet), the Mexican Forklore Dancers, the Throwing Picassos, and the Plymouth Brass.

World Day on the Mall/Patriot Day will host a variety of food and information vendors from various cultures. Among those participating: Paul's Old-fashioned Barbecue, Los Mendoza, Camelot Concession, Indian Tacos, Taj Mahal, Lincoln City Libraries, Every Woman Matters, League of Human Dignity, Operation Able, State Employee Credit Union, Women's Commission, Commission on Indian Affairs, BryanLGH East, Lincoln Literacy Council, State Historical Society, the NIS project, HHS Diversity Committee, City of Lincoln-Personnel & Diversity, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department, and the Lincoln Action Program.

Please call Emily Weddle at (402) 471-3678 or email at [eweddle@notes.state.ne.us](mailto:eweddle@notes.state.ne.us) with any questions or comments.



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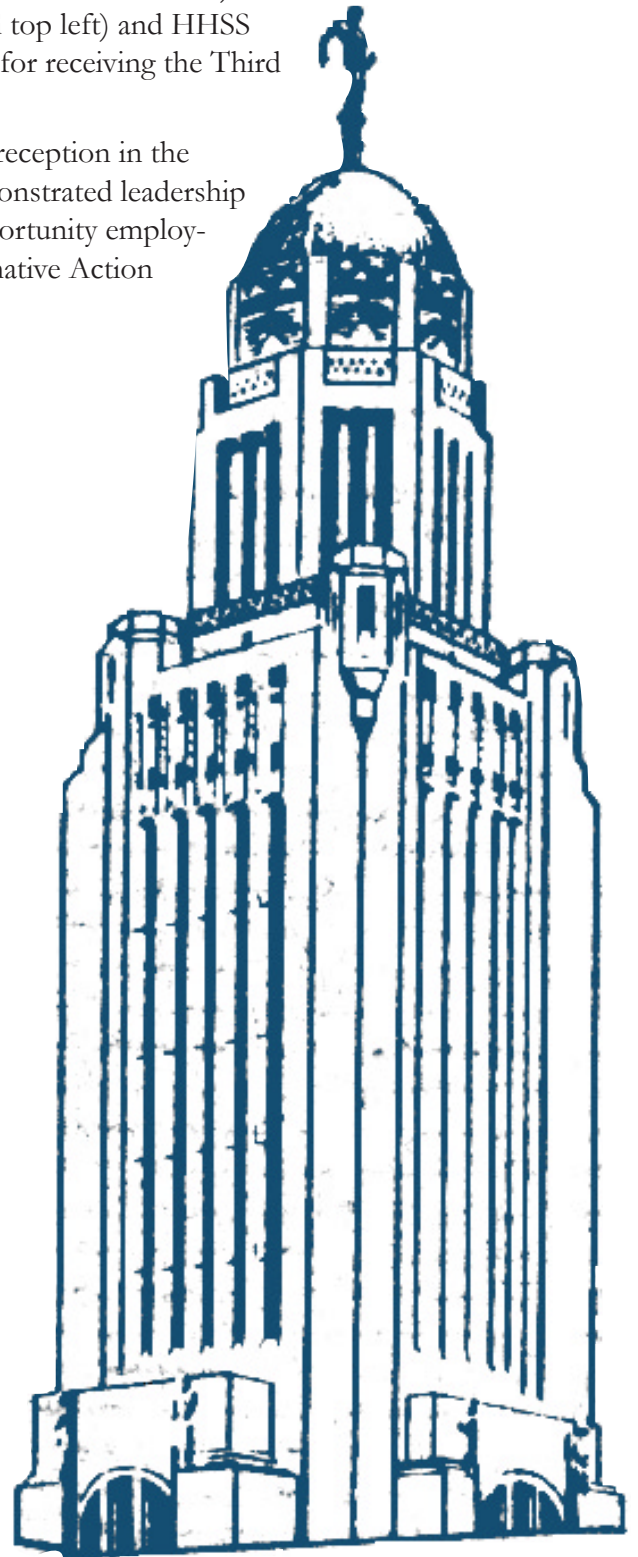
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## Third Annual Governor's Affirmative Action Award

Congratulations to Lieutenant Judy Bailey and Tami Ringland, Nebraska State Patrol; Kris Azimi and Arturo Coto, HHSS Finance and Support and HHSS Regulation and Licensure; Dr. Barbara Ramsey, Lincoln Regional Center; Amir Azimi HHSS Administrator of Support Services; Charles Long, Nebraska Department of Revenue; HHSS Beatrice State Development Center Diversity Committee (pictured bottom left); HHSS Eastern Service Area Omaha Diversity Committee, (pictured top left) and HHSS Eastern Service Area Black History Month Celebration Committee for receiving the Third Annual Governor's Affirmative Action Award.

Governor Johanns presented the honorees with this award at a reception in the Governor's residence. The award was given for recognition of demonstrated leadership in promoting and enhancing the philosophy and spirit of equal opportunity employment, affirmative action, and cultural diversity. Riko Bishop, Affirmative Action Committee Chair, served as master of ceremonies for the event.





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## State of Nebraska Employee Honored

*By Emily Weddle*

**S**hirley Lafreniere was born in New York. She lived, worked and raised a family in New York. She moved to Nebraska 20 years ago and has been employed with the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services Systems for the last 18 years.

Shirley Lafreniere will have her quilt block in The World Trade Center / Pentagon / PA Memorial quilt. This quilt is being assembled in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the September 11 tragedy.

So how did Shirley find out the details about The World Trade Center/ Pentagon/ PA Memorial quilt and need for quilt blocks? It was Shirley's 87 year old mother who found out about the request for donated quilt blocks to be used for the Memorial quilt while surfing the internet. With the deadline for entries a week away, Shirley locked herself away for a weekend and worked on the quilt block.

There were certain requirements for completing the block: it had to be red, white and blue with a white background, have a star motif, and be of certain dimensions. Shirley worried about completing the project by the deadline especially with all the requirements, oh and did I mention that Shirley was constructing the block by hand. Shirley completed the block in time, mailed it and waited to see if her block would be chosen to be included in the main quilt.

With Over 19,000 quilt blocks donated, only 3000 blocks were to be used in the main quilt. The remaining



quilt blocks will be used to make quilts to donate to those in need. Shirley checked the web site occasionally to see if her block would be chosen; imagine her surprise when she saw her name listed on the web site. Shirley said she had a whole range of emotions when she saw her name. She felt proud, excited and humbled, along with a deep sadness for those whose lives will be forever changed by this tragic event.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Shirley to get the information to write this story and I am so happy that Shirley wanted to share her story. So often in the news it seems harder and harder to find that story that gives you a warm fuzzy. In my opinion this is one of those stories. Thank you Shirley and Congratulations!

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# Bush policy to support tribal colleges

BY JODI RAVE / *Lincoln Journal Star*

President Bush signed an executive order Wednesday calling for the government and private sector to support the country's 32 tribal colleges and universities. "The federal government's commitment to tribal colleges is reaffirmed, and the private sector can and should contribute to the colleges' educational and cultural missions," wrote Bush in his order, adding that his No Child Left Behind Act would include tribal colleges.

The president's order creates a 14-member presidential advisory board for which Bush named as Chairman Ron McNeil, president of the Sitting Bull College of North Dakota's Standing Rock Reservation. Additionally, Bush's new policy requires participating federal agencies to explain, in a three-year plan to the newly created White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities, how they'll get involved with the colleges.

Gerald E. Gipp, executive director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, attended the signing of the order at the White House.

"Witnessing President Bush signing the executive order confirmed this administration's support of our nation's tribal colleges and universities, the federally recognized tribes they represent, and the students and communities they serve," Gipp said.

Tribal colleges serve purposes beyond offering an education. They help preserve languages and cultural

traditions, provide job training and other career-building programs to adults and senior citizens, and provide crucial services in communities plagued by high unemployment.

Bush's policy is expected to breathe life into tribal colleges' financial leverage, which often leaves schools struggling from one grant to another. Under the Tribally Controlled Community College Act, tribal colleges receive about half the funding per student when compared to mainstream community colleges.

"Sometimes we just barely survive," said Ed Webster, vice president of development for Nebraska Indian Community College based in Macy. "This initiative will open a lot of doors."

Here's a list of the president's tribal college advisory board:

- Ann Marie Downes of Homer, Neb. — member of Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and president of Little Priest Tribal College.
- David W. Anderson of Edina, Minn. — member of Chippewa and Choctaw tribes and chairman of Famous Dave's of America.
- Carl J. Artman of Golden, Colo. — member of Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and general counsel and vice president of business development at CorAccess Systems, LLC.
- Eddie F. Brown of Chesterfield, Mo. — member of Pascua Yagui Tribe and associate dean for community affairs and director of Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.
- Thomas J. Cole of Moore, Okla. — member of Chickasaw Nation and president of Cole, Hargrave, Snodgrass, & Associates, a political consulting firm.
- Kathryn L. Domenici of Albuquerque, N.M. — owner of Communications Services, instructor at University of New Mexico and partner in Domenici Littlejohn.
- Mark O. Hatfield of Tilamook, Ore. — former U.S. senator from Oregon and adjunct professor at Portland State University, Lewis & Clark College and George Fox University.
- Daniel G. Keating of Tulsa, Okla. — president of Summit Consolidated Group.
- David J. Matheson of Worley, Idaho — member of Coeur d'Alene Tribe and chief executive officer of Coeur d'Alene Casino.
- Martha A. McLeod of Brimley, Mich. — founding president of Bay Mills Community College and provost and vice president for charter schools of the college.
- Karen M. Gayton Swisher of Lawrence, Kan. — member of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and president of Haskell Indian Nations University.
- Della C. Warrior of Santa Fe, N.M. — member of Otoe-Missouria Tribe and president and development director of Institute of American Indian Arts.
- Richard B. Williams of Broomfield, Colo. — member of Oglala Sioux Tribe and executive director of American Indian College Fund.